

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 02778 101921Z

14-11

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 DODE-00 NSCE-00 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8263

S E C R E T ATHENS 2778

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, GR

SUBJECT: FUNDING MILITARY MATERIEL ACQUISITIONS BY GREECE

REF: STATE 065490

1. I HAD WHAT I BELIEVED WAS THE IDEAL SCENARIO FOR CARRYING OUT THE INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REFTEL EARLIER THIS WEEK. AT THE REQUEST OF PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS, I HAD A MEETING WITH CARAMANLIS ON MARCH 31 AND A SECOND MEETING ON APRIL 7 DURING WHICH WE DISCUSSED A RANGE OF SUBJECTS, REPORTED SEPARATELY. IN THE COURSE OF MY DISCUSSIONS WITH CARAMANLIS, I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO INFORM HIM, IN AN ADVANTAGEOUS WAY, THAT WE EXPECTED TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE A SMALL ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF FMS CREDITS TO GREECE IN ADDITION TO THE \$71 MILLION ALREADY PROGRAMMED FOR FY 75. WHEN CARAMANLIS ASKED HOW MUCH I THOUGHT THE ADDITIONAL AMOUNT WOULD BE, I SAID I WAS NOT SURE BUT THAT IN TERMS OF THE VERY LARGE SCALE REQUIREMENTS THAT HAD BEEN OUTLINED TO US BY THE GOG, I ANTICIPATED THAT THE AMOUNT WOULD BE A "SMALL" INCREASE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THIS FISCAL YEAR. I ALSO TOLD CARAMANLIS THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF REINSTATING US GRANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO GREECE WAS BEING CAREFULLY CONSIDERED IN WASHINGTON BUT THAT THERE WERE A NUMBER OF DIFFICULTIES CONNECTED WITH IT AND THAT I DID NOT KNOW AT

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PAGE 02 ATHENS 02778 101921Z

THIS STATE WHEN A FINAL DECISION WOULD BE REACHED.

2. AFTER MY MEETING WITH CARAMANLIS I HAD A DISCUSSION OF THE SAME POINTS WITH DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF AND CONVEYED TO HIM SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME INFORMATION. BOTH CARAMANLIS AND AVEROFF WERE PLEASED TO LEARN OF THE ANTICIPATED INCREASE IN FMS CREDITS AND ASKED TO BE INFORMED OF THE SPECIFIC AMOUNT AVAILABLE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND RENEWED THE GOG REQUEST THAT IT BE AS LARGE AN INCREASE AS WE COULD POSSIBLY ARRANGE. AVEROFF ALSO INQUIRED AS TO THE POSSIBILITY OF FINDING SOME WAY OF ASSISTING GREECE, IF A LONG DELAY WAS ANTICIPATED IN DECIDING THE GRANT AID QUESTION, BY MAKING AVAILABLE EXCESS OR SURPLUS EQUIPMENT FROM U.S. MILITARY SUPPLIES AND STOCKS. I TOLD AVEROFF THAT I WAS NOT TERRIBLY OPTIMISTIC THAT ANYTHING ALONG THESE LINES COULD BE ARRANGED BUT THAT I WOULD DISCUSS IT WITH MEMBERS OF MY STAFF IN THE JUSMAGG AND WE WOULD ALSO BE IN TOUCH THROUGH APPROPRIATE MILITARY CHANNELS ON THIS SUBJECT WITH HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON.
KUBISCH

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